

## Proper Prescription Writing and Drug Disposal

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Drug addiction and in particular the opioid crisis has become a nationwide problem. The dental profession has an ethical duty and now legal duty to participate in obtaining solutions to this epidemic. Until recently, 15% of all opioid prescriptions filled in the United States were written by dentists. (1) Many of these prescriptions go unused to be later used for nonmedical purposes.

According to results from the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 2.1 million Americans used prescription drugs nonmedically for the first time within the past year, which averages to approximately 5,750 initiates per day. 54% were female and about 30% were adolescents. (2)

In a nation review of death certificates, 58% drug overdose deaths involved pharmaceutical drugs (3):

- Opioids- 75%
- Benzodiazepines- 29%
- Antidepressants- 18%
- Antiepileptic/Antiparkinsonian- 8%

### Course Objectives:

- Identify best practices for appropriate prescribing, handling, and disposal of medications and controlled substances.
- Educate prescribers regarding protection of prescription pads and recognize “doctor shoppers”.
- Review usage of State or Regional Prescription Drug Monitoring Program’s (PDMP’s).
- Review current and emerging methods of pain control without use or limited use of opioids.
- Become familiar with use of Naloxone (Narcan).

### References:

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